

Church News

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The Sunday-school enrollment and attendance have also materially increased. Both membership and pastor rejoice in the forward look, and we are earnestly hoping and praying that 1917 will be the best year in our history.

W. N. Sholl, Pastor.

First Colored Church: We had our annual Christmas tree Friday night during the holidays. Quite a crowd of children were out. There were also many grown people present. The program consisted of songs, recitations and Scripture reading. The tree was the most beautiful we have ever had. After the program many hearts were made glad. We wish to thank the kind white friends who helped to make these little ones happy. We now have two Sunday-schools, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. We have over 140 children in these schools. We organized the afternoon school in November and now have 63 on roll. We have cleared up a debt on the church, which has been standing for a long time. We have one more debt which we hope to pay off by the first of April. Thus we begin the new year with new hope. We had an old-fashion watch meeting on Sunday, December 31, after the regular sermon. The church was filled with people. It was a meeting to be long remembered. There was much interest manifested in the meeting.

I. C. H. Champney, Pastor.

FLORIDA.

Lakeland: Lakeland has found "the better way" of celebrating Christmas in the Sunday-school. The "White Gift Service" supplied by the Committee on Ministerial Relief solves the problem. After careful preparation and explanation, we had the service on Sunday afternoon, the day before Christmas, and it was not an "entertainment," but a real "worship service," taking the place of the evening meeting. The church was filled; everybody seems pleased; five of the children of the school accepted the Saviour; numbers offered reconsecrations and service in various departments; and we sent \$80 to add to the Endowment Fund. The praise belongs to the King whose birthday we fittingly celebrated.

Clearwater: Sunday, January 7, marks the second anniversary of the pastorate of Rev. R. D. Dodge of this church. Since the coming of Mr. Dodge two years ago, our church has made splendid progress along all lines of its work. There has been a net gain in membership of over 22 per cent. The year before his coming our church reported \$275 contributed to benevolences. Last year we reported \$594—a gain of 116 per cent. Probably in the Sunday-school our progress has been most marked, inasmuch as Mr. Dodge has been interested particularly in the young people of the church. During the two years of his pastorate our school has grown from a membership of 65 to 149; four classes have been organized, also a Cradle Roll and Home Department. Many of the children remain to the church service to hear the children's sermon, which has become a regular part of the morning service. While thanking God for the growth of the past, we are looking forward to better things in the future.

Bartow: Rev. H. H. Newman, of Lakeland, Fla., supplied the pulpit on Sunday morning, December 31st, in the absence of Mr. Turpin, who was sick in bed with a severe stomach trouble which is prevalent in this community. Mr. Turpin is much better at this writing and hopes to be able to hold services as usual.

Y.

GEORGIA.

Atlanta: Rev. John Goff, evangelist of Atlanta Presbytery, will begin work January 9. The prospects are very bright for a great work in the bounds of this aggressive and growing Presbytery.

Rev. Frank Wright, the Indian evangelist, will hold two meetings in Atlanta, one in the North Avenue church and the other in Central.

Westminster: The Christmas celebration of the Sunday-school of this church took place in the auditorium on Sunday evening, December 24. It was a religious celebration of a high order. The songs and recitations by the children were excellent. The two main features were a series of pictures of some of the famous paintings connected with the birth of Jesus, and an offering by the Senior Department, with which they spelled the word "Thornwell."

Commerce: The members of this church have just finished installing a much needed heating system, of which the church has stood in sore need for some time, and now the church is very comfortable during the cold winter weather we have been having of late. Numerically as well as financially the Presbyterian church is the weakest church here, but the members of that church have now completed a church building which is a distinct credit to themselves and to their splendid spiritual pastor, Dr. William R. Henderson. In addition to installation of the furnace, there has been hanging over our church an indebtedness for some time, but the members of our church determined to pay it off by this date and begin the new year with "a clean balance sheet," and a meeting of our congregation was held for that purpose on yesterday. The pastor, Dr. W. R. Henderson, preached a splendid sermon, especially appropriate for the occasion, which was listened to with the closest attention by all present. After the sermon the congregational meeting was called to order, Dr. Henderson presiding; the object of the meeting was stated; an itemized statement of all outstanding obligations was read, including the expenses incident to the installation of the heating system, just completed; and the congregation was then called upon to raise the amount necessary to clear the church of indebtedness of every kind. The congregation promptly responded and quickly raised a sufficient sum to pay off all the church's indebtedness, and today the members of our little church are rejoicing at the fact that our church is now out of debt for the first time since we began the erection of the new church building. The way now being clear, it is the purpose of the members of our church to have our church in the near future dedicated to the use and worship of the Almighty God.

Waynesboro: Five of the young people of our congregation were received into this church on their profession of faith the fourth Sabbath in December. Rev. J. D. McPhail, the pastor of this church, has accepted a call to become the pastor of the Presbyterian church at Eufaula, Ala., his labors to begin there the 1st of February.

Alpine Group: At the last meeting of Synod there was also a call meeting of Cherokee Presbytery, when it was decided to put a Sunday-school missionary in this field. The thing has actually been done, and Mr. J. S. Robinson, from Piedmont Presbytery, Synod of South Carolina, took up the work here January 1st. He will make headquarters at Cartersville. Mr. Robinson is now engaged in visiting various places of the field, and has just been in this pastorate and held conferences with the several Sunday-

schools in this group, having spent some four days in visitation work with the pastor, Rev. Charles R. Bailey, at the three churches composing this charge. In the same way he plans to visit one after another of the fields of the Presbytery, thus getting a general survey of the work. After making this general survey it is his plan to visit and co-operate with all those churches in the Presbytery that are without pastors and Sunday-schools with a view of getting the Sunday-schools reorganized. Then, after these weaker places are stirred up, he will begin to get out into the territory that is now untouched by the influence of our church.

Cuthbert: Recently Rev. A. M. Atkins and family have received from the Cuthbert church many tokens of love and appreciation. A few weeks since during the illness of his wife the pastor received as a gift a sufficient amount of money to enable him to take her to Birmingham and have her treated by a specialist. At Christmas, in addition to the many gifts that were sent to the manse in money and other valuable articles the pastor's study was beautifully furnished. This was done by one of the classes of the Sabbath-school.

Jonesboro: The recent Christmas season was in several respects the most enjoyable ever experienced by this preacher and his family. We gave more and received more than usual. Our good friends "pounded" us without stint, but it was a kind of pounding that was more than skin deep, yet without injury to cuticle. It produced a heart affection that was extremely agreeable, though mingled with a feeling of unworthiness. May God reward them in a way and to an extent that man cannot. The "White Gift" exercise, which took the place of the Sabbath-school on December 24, was quite a success, and a liberal offering was made for Ministerial Relief.

N. B. Mathis.

KENTUCKY.

Bloomfield and Big Spring Churches: Our work here is moving smoothly. We have recently finished extensive improvements on the exterior of the Bloomfield church which render it much more attractive than it was. The winter is always our "dull season," weather conditions being such we cannot do much aggressive work. However, we enter upon the new year with much to inspire hope and courage. The pastor and his family were generously remembered by the good people of these two congregations, besides many other persons affiliated with other denominations in the community. We feel ourselves under renewed obligations to our many friends for these latest tokens of their affection.

MISSOURI.

St. Louis: Central church presented its pastor, the Rev. J. Layton Mauze, D. D., with a New Year's gift of \$800 per year increase in salary. This is the third raise in salary Dr. Mauze has received since entering upon his present pastorate. Twenty-seven members were received into this church during the month of September. The Rev. E. E. Reed, D. D., president of Westminster College, inaugurated his campaign for \$500,000 for Westminster College at the morning service in Central church December 31st.

OKLAHOMA.

Coalgate: The annual musical festival was observed in the Presbyterian church of Coalgate December 24, 7:30 P. M. The cantata, "The Christmas King," by Holton, consisting of choruses, quartets, duets and solos, was rendered by a company of more than

thirty singers, to the great delight of a crowded house. Our church choir, of more than ordinary talent, twice a year delight our people and community with a superb rendering of Easter and Christmas music. The pastor applies the theme of the music in a ten-minute address.

E. E. Bigger.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Timmons ville: Our church has been much encouraged by the coming in of a number of new families, which has made a substantial increase to our membership, and as a result we are looking forward to the new year with strong courage and faith to build up the Master's kingdom. The children of the Sunday-school enjoyed their Christmas tree, but they were not content only with receiving, and several classes made glad the hearts of others who were not so fortunate as themselves. Our church recently contributed \$134 for the Ministerial Endowment Fund. The pastor and his family were generously remembered at the Christmas-time by a loyal and devoted people. Rev. J. P. Anderson, the pastor, has declined the call which was recently extended him by the church at Lynnvilleville, Tenn.

Mt. Zion (Harmony Presbytery): This church is rejoicing in the presence with them of three of their missionaries from the foreign field—Rev. and Mrs. L. O. McCutchen, of Korea, and Miss Rebecca Wilson. One other member of this church is also on the foreign field—Mrs. P. F. Price, of China. Rev. A. P. Hassell, of our Japan mission, is supported by this church and is now in this country, but not with us. It was the hope of the church recently to have all these missionaries with us together, but it was not found convenient. As it was, a reception was recently given those three who are here. All three of these leave us shortly to take up some extra work at Dr. White's Bible School, New York, and at Princeton.

Ruby: Santa Claus visited the manse here on Christmas morning. He came in a large automobile and what he brought would not go into stockings. Boxes and bags and tin cans were required, for there was flour and ham and lard and rice and various kinds of canned fruits, vegetables, pickles, etc. All of these good things came from members and friends of the church. With thankful hearts we sat down to a good Christmas dinner, the primary part of which was a splendid turkey, the gift of a good lady member of the church, who has provided the manse's Christmas turkey for each of the six Christmases we have been in this field.

J. R. Millard.

TENNESSEE.

Humboldt: During the Christmas season, our hearts were made to rejoice in being so generally and generously remembered by the good people of this church. Many good things to tempt the appetite, many nice little remembrances, and many expressions of good will were received at the manse; and the Ladies' Aid, who never do things by halves, presented to the pastor and his wife a much appreciated purse.

E. S. Brainard.

WEST VIRGINIA.

Charles Town: This church has experienced a rich blessing through the series of evangelistic services recently held under the leadership of Dr. Thacker and Mr. Jelks. Careful preparation had been made. The people were at prayer and at work. Dr. Thacker preached the gospel in its simplicity and power. Mr. Jelks led

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